



EPP Buyer Update

Published by the
Massachusetts
Operational
Services Division
(OSD)
Environmentally
Preferable Products
Procurement
Program

Volume 1. September 2002

Preventing Waste: FAC25 - The New Carpet and Flooring Contract

According to an EPA estimate, only about 1 percent of the 4 billion pounds of carpet discarded in the United States is recycled. Disposing of large amounts of used carpet is not only a major labor and cost issue for commercial facilities, government agencies, and institutions, but also poses serious environmental problems. If landfilled, the bulky carpet consumes enormous amounts of space. If incinerated, carpeting -- especially products with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) backing -- can release toxic chemicals, including dioxin, into the air.

The Facilities Procurement Management Team (PMT) lead by OSD has addressed these issues in the recently awarded of statewide contract #FAC25, Carpet and Flooring Products, Recycled and Related Services. Under the new contract, the Commonwealth can purchase high quality broadloom carpet and carpet tiles that not only have recycled content, but also can be recycled at the time of replacement. All manufacturers and service providers under the contract are required to pick up the carpet they are replacing and recycle it. Some of that recycled carpet is actually made into new carpet products, while in other cases, used carpeting can be recycled into such items as automobile accessories. In either case, recycling your used carpet serves to keep thousands of pounds of used materials out of landfills and incinerators.

In addition to carpet, the contract also offers a selection of vinyl composition and plastic flooring and tiles, rubber matting and indoor and outdoor surfaces -- all with a portion of recycled content or natural rubber materials. The contract establishes a fixed price for the products only, while installation and other charges may vary by service provider. Therefore, contract users are encouraged to "shop" the awarded SPs to get the best value. See details of the contract (and look for the upcoming OSD Update) at: http://www.comm-pass.com/Comm-PASS/Scripts/xdoc_view.idc?doc_id=011846.

What to Do with Used Mobile Phones?

It seems like cell phones are everywhere! There are over 130 million people using cell phones in the US today, changing handsets on average every 18 months. INFORM, a nationwide non-profit recently released a report that estimates that by 2005 Americans will be throwing out about 130 million portable phones every year. That's about 65,000 tons a year of trash containing heavy metals and other toxic chemicals from printed wiring boards, batteries and liquid crystal displays of the wireless devices. Those chemicals are harmless to consumers while the phones are in use, but once the phones are discarded, they become a serious environmental problem.

In collaboration with OSD's Communication Network Services PMT, the Environmental Purchasing program has identified several options that would allow public agencies as well as consumers to dispose of their cellular phones and batteries in an environmentally sound way. Certain cellular phone recyclers provide an opportunity to benefit a charity of your choice. One of the options allows agencies to be paid directly for the phones collected. Find out more about these options on the EPP Program's website at http://www.state.ma.us/osd/enviro/PRODUCTS/phone_disposal_solutions.pdf

FAQs

Question: I've heard that the American Petroleum Institute has come up with more stringent standards for motor oils. Is that correct and will the re-refined motor oil available on the statewide contract continue to comply with the standards?

Answer: Yes, your information is correct. On April 1, 2002, the American Petroleum Institute (API) replaced its SJ specifications for motor oil with more stringent SL specifications. Current API certification is a requirement on the statewide contract for motor oil, and all products available on the contract meet the more stringent API specs. For more information, please contact Kevin O'Leary, Safety-Kleen Corporation, 508-539-9007.

Upcoming Events



8th Annual Buy Recycled and EPPs Vendor Fair and Conference **SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH GREEN PURCHASING**

**Tuesday October 29, 2002, 8 AM – 4 PM
Worcester Centrum Centre, Worcester, MA**

On October 29th 2002, the Vendor Fair and Conference, once again, will bring together over 750 public sector purchasers from throughout the state and beyond. The event will feature over 100 booth displays of recycled and other environmentally preferable products (EPPs), and nine dynamic workshops exploring a broad range of issues: from sustainability and behavior change to saving money and reaping health benefits through EPP purchasing and waste reduction.

Among the **new things** happening at the Vendor Fair this year will be:

- The opening of the Environmental Flag of America consisting of hundreds of artworks created by school children with Sidewalk Sam, the Boston-based community artist. The flag will teach children (and inform adults) that environmentally-minded purchases help keep America healthy, beautiful, and strong.
- Carpool services provided by CARAVAN for Commuters, Inc. Whether you have a car or need a ride, CARAVAN can help you find other attendees coming from your area. They can also provide you with information on convenient bus and commuter rail options. For assistance with carpooling or other transportation options to the Vendor Fair, call: 1-888-4-COMMUTE or visit them on the web at www.commute.com.
- Immediately following the Vendor Fair and Conference, MassRecycle, the Massachusetts Recycling Coalition, will hold its 2002 Annual Event and Awards Ceremony.

Register Today!

All public sector personnel – state, local and school - are invited free of charge but must pre-register. Government personnel from other states are also welcome. Online registration:

<http://www.mass.gov/osd/enviro/events.htm>

Additional Information: Dmitriy Nikolayev, Operational Services Division, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 617-720-3351, dmitriy.nikolayev@osd.state.ma.us

A Note from the EPP Purchasing Program

We hope you have enjoyed the first issue of the EPP Buyer Update. Please let your colleagues know about the newsletter and encourage them to subscribe. We welcome any comments/suggestions on the form and content of the newsletter. Specifically, we would like to hear from you about the following:

- What are the topics you would like us to address in the newsletter?
- What questions would you like to see in the FAQs section of the newsletter?

Please send your feedback to Dmitriy Nikolayev at dmitriy.nikolayev@osd.state.ma.us or call him at 617-720-3351.

Hope to hear from you soon,

Marcia Deegler and Dmitriy Nikolayev

Subscription Information

The EPP Buyer Update newsletter is published by the Environmentally Preferable Products Purchasing Program at the Massachusetts Operational Services Division, One Ashburton Place, Room 1017, Boston, MA 02108, 617-720-3351, 617-727-4527 fax. Visit us online at <http://www.mass.gov/osd/enviro/> Subscribe to subscribe to or unsubscribe from this newsletter at http://www.mass.gov/osd/enviro/newsletter_form.html